

CLAIMS LISTING

The following claims listing replaces all previous versions of the claims.

1-16 (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method of determining MSI status of a tumor selected from a colorectal tumor, a gastric tumor and an endometrial tumor, comprising determining in said tumor the number of adenosine (A) nucleotides in a poly(A) tract located at positions 4393-4400 of SEQ ID NO:3 or 4582-4590 of SEQ ID NO:3 of a RIZ nucleic acid molecule in said tumor, wherein an abnormal number of adenosine nucleotides in said RIZ poly(A) tract indicates that the tumor is MSI-positive.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein said poly(A) tract is a RIZ (A)₈ tract at positions 4393-4400 of SEQ ID NO:3.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein said poly(A) tract is a RIZ (A)₉ tract at positions 4582-4590 of SEQ ID NO:3.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said abnormal number of adenosine residues is an increased number.

21. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said abnormal number of adenosine residues is a decreased number.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein ~~said tumor is selected from the group consisting of colorectal tumor, a gastric tumor and an endometrial tumor~~ a decrease of one or two adenosine nucleotides in said poly(A) tract indicates that the tumor is MSI-positive.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein said tumor is a hereditary nonpolyposis colon carcinoma.